providing support price to oil palm farmers through implementation of Market Intervention Scheme on 50:50 basis between Centre and State. The proposal is being examined.

Subsidy on DRIP Irrigation

761. SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government consider extending the subsidy given to the farmers for drip irrigation to the farmers who are using the sprinkler system for irrigation which is justifiable as far as the farmers are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Subsidy assistance is being provided to the farmers for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation system depending upon the type of crop being grown by the farmer. For horticultural crops assistance is being provided for drip irrigation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture. Similarly, under the Oil Palm Development Project and under the Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System, assistance is being provided for drip irrigation of oil palm and sugarcane crops respectively. During 1999-2000 drip irrigation has been extended to cotton crop also under the Integrated Cotton Development Project of Technology Mission on Cotton.

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

762. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) since when crop insurance scheme is implemented by Government;

(b) the details of coverage of crops, regions, premium etc.; and

(c) whether Government will introduce a comprehensive crop insurance scheme covering all the crops throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):